Construction of Bye-pass National Highway Coastal Road from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari

2622. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to construct a bye-pass National Highway Coastal road from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari;

(b) wether it is a fact that the proposal amounting to rupees 16 crores for the construction of coastal road is pending before the Central Government for approval; and

(c) if so, when it is proposed to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The proposal is in the preliminary stage of investigation and the State Governments have been asked to undertake feasibility studies.

A/C chair car in express trains

2623. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide A/C chair car in certain Express trains in Southern Railway like Pallevan and Vargai Expresses;

(b) if so, by when these A/C chair cars are likely to be introduced and in which other trains this facility will be provided; and

(c) what steps are being taken to minimise termination of certain express trains in Southern Railway while introducing new linking routes in the main lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken are part of rationalisation of train services and provision of daily superfast services between Delhi and Southern Capitals.

Railway concession to musicians

2624. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-received any suggestion from Tamil Nadu Industry Minister for the urgent need of extending Railway concession to musicians travelling alone as given to musical groups; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the request to encourage musicians from South to perform in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Concession in second class rail fares is admissible to the artists (musical theatrical concert and dancing troops when travelling in groups of not less than five. The request was considered but could not be agreed to due to financial constraints.

Development of Siddha in Tamil Nadu

2625. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Centre to assist the State in the development of the Siddha research;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and